



894

DEC '10

LEX LUTHOR'S

ACTION

COMICS

PAUL CORNELL
PETE WOODS

DEATH
IN ACTION!



FINCH
BOLT

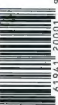
SECOND FEATURE

JIMMY OLSEN

by NICK SPENCER & RB SILVA



DIRECT SALES



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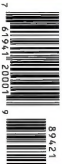
ACTION COMICS



Art by Russel

PAUL CORNELL
PETE WOODS

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THE BLACK RING PART FIVE

SO YOU'RE
SAVING...

...THAT'S
ME LYING
THERE?

IT'S YOUR
BODY.



paul cornell

writer

pete woods

artist

brad anderson

colorist

rob leigh

letterer

david finch,

batt & peter

steigerwald

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p. gary russell

variant cover

will moss

asst. editor

matt idelson

editor

very special thanks to
neil galman

superman

created by

jerry siegel

& **joe shuster**

death

created by

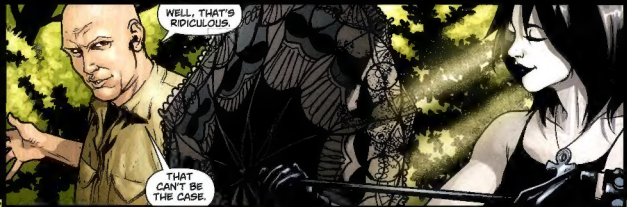
neil galman

& **mike**

dringenberg

BORN IN SMALLVILLE,
BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF
SUPERIOR, HE MURDERED HIS
FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA
AND BUILT AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS.
THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS
VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS
BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL AND INSTEAD
EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION...
AND FUTURE RULER.

Lex Luthor



WELL, THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

THAT CAN'T BE THE CASE.

I RECALL BEING SHOT... FALLING...

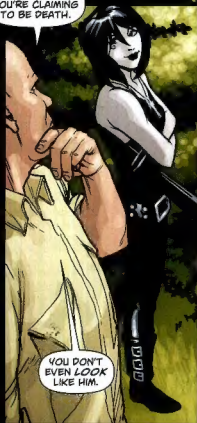
THIS IS A VERY GOOD DUPLICATE YOU'VE COME UP WITH, WHOEVER YOU ARE. WARM. SOFT LIKE FLESH.

Hmmm, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE... BREATHING...



WE'RE OUTSIDE TIME HERE. YOU WOULDN'T SEE THAT ANYWAY.

AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE CLAIMING TO BE DEATH.



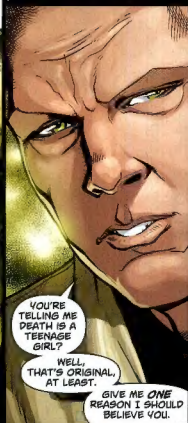
YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE SCVTHE? OR THE SKIS?

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU. IT'S JUST ME.



BUT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT MY JOB. I'M DEATH.



YOU'RE TELLING ME DEATH IS A TEENAGE GIRL?

WELL, THAT'S ORIGINAL, AT LEAST.

GIVE ME ONE REASON I SHOULD BELIEVE YOU.





OKAY, SO
THERE'S THIS
THING I CAN
DO--

--WHICH CAN
SOMETIMES SORT
OF CLARIFY THE
SITUATION FOR
PEOPLE.



IT'S CALLED THE
LIFE REVIEW.

YOU KNOW
WHEN YOU'RE DYING
AND YOUR WHOLE LIFE
FLASHES BEFORE YOUR
EYES? IT'S LIKE
THAT, ONLY...

...LATER,
USUALLY.

I...
I DON'T
WANT--!

DON'T BE
SCARED, YOU
MIGHT EVEN
ENJOY IT.



Hmm, THAT'S A
LOT OF STUFF TO
CHOOSE FROM.

I CAN SEE
ALL YOUR LIFE
FROM HERE.

AND IT LOOKS
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT
IT WOULD...

WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?!

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE--!



MY LIFE.

YUP.

THERE
IT IS.

WITH LOTS
OF PEOPLE
FIGHTING.

AND LOTS OF
PEOPLE BEING
CLEVER.

TURN IT OFF!
YOU'LL REGRET
THIS!

JUST BECAUSE
I DID WHAT **HAD**
TO BE DONE--!

WHO **ELSE**
WAS GOING TO
DO IT?!

--NOT JUDGING.
SERIOUSLY.

OH!
I SEE WHAT
THIS IS!

IF YOU'RE
"DEATH"--!

HEY--

THE ATTACK
OF THE BLACK
LANTERNS! THE
DEAD RISING!

THAT'S WHAT
THIS IS **ABOUT**,
ISN'T IT?! IT WAS
YOU BEHIND
THAT!

Erm...

OH. YEAH.
I NOTICED
THAT.

IT LOOKED LIKE
THEY WERE ALL HAVING
A GREAT TIME. YOU KNOW,
PEOPLE DO COME BACK
FROM THE DEAD. IT'S
NOT A BIG DEAL.

I **AM**
KIND OF
BUSY.





ALL RIGHT. THIS ISN'T GETTING ME ANYWHERE.

ANGER IS NOT A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE TO THIS SITUATION. OBVIOUSLY.

SO--



WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO CHANGE THIS?

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

A PONY.
A MAGIC PONY.
A MAGIC PONY WHO SINGS.



...DO YOU MEAN...LITERALLY?
IS THAT SOME KIND OF CREATURE THAT--?

SORRY.
I WAS JOKING.



I MEAN, WHAT DO I... NEED? IT'D BE NICE IF THERE WAS SOMETHING.

SORRY.
I ALWAYS FIND "BARGAINING" THE HARDEST OF THESE STAGES TO DEAL WITH.



I'VE MET LOTS OF MAGIC PONIES, EVEN SINGING ONES.

I'VE MET EVERYBODY.



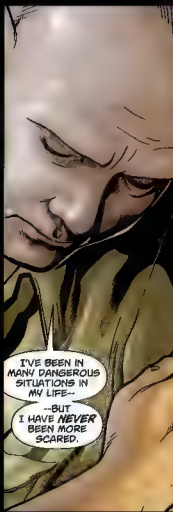




I'M ACTUALLY.

...I'M HAVING THE MOST INTERESTING PHYSICAL REACTION--

--IRONICALLY.



I'VE BEEN IN MANY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS IN MY LIFE--

--BUT I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE SCARED.



!

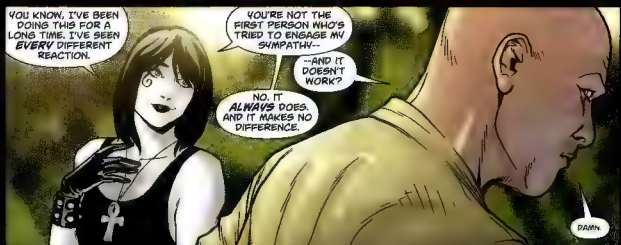
Shh IT'S OKAY.

CAN... CAN YOU--?



--HELP ME?

PLEASE HELP ME



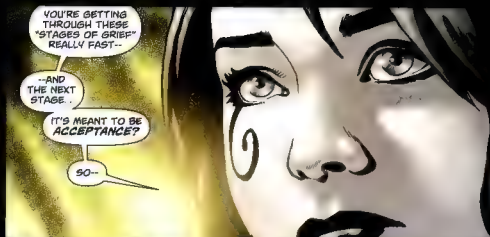
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME. I'VE SEEN EVERY DIFFERENT REACTION.

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S TRIED TO ENGAGE MY SYMPATHY--

--AND IT DOESN'T WORK?

NO. IT ALWAYS DOES. AND IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

DAMN



YOU'RE GETTING
THROUGH THESE
"STAGES OF GRIEF"
REALLY FAST--

--AND
THE NEXT
STAGE..

IT'S MEANT TO BE
ACCEPTANCE?

SO--



I DON'T DO
"ACCEPTANCE"!

THERE MUST BE
SOME WAY OUT
OF THIS!

I'M LEX
LUTHOR.
DAMN IT!

WOO
OKAY



TIME
OUT

WHAT?/
WHERE..?

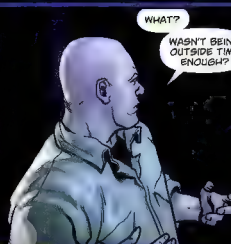


HAVE WE
MOVED ON
TO--?

NOPE. THIS IS JUST
SOMEWHERE WE CAN
TALK...PRIVATELY



IF YOU NEED
THE SCIENCE BIT,
I THINK IT'S ONE OF
THOSE ROLLED-UP
DIMENSIONS.



WHAT?

WASN'T BEING
OUTSIDE TIME
ENOUGH?



WHY DOES
"DEATH" WANT
TO "TALK
PRIVATELY"?

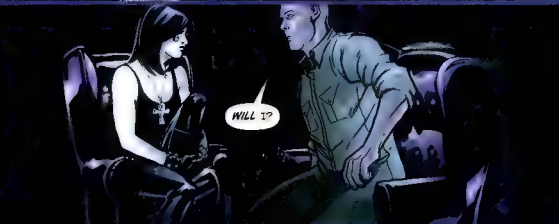


WELL, MAYBE I
THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE FUN TO HEAR
YOUR OPINIONS
ABOUT...

Y'KNOW...

THE
AFTERLIFE?

SOME PEOPLE
THINK THAT *WHATEVER*
HAPPENS AFTER YOU DIE...
YOU'LL GO WHERE YOU'RE
MEANT TO GO.



WILL I?



WHO
SAYS?

IF NOT YOU,
THEN WHO HAS
THE RIGHT TO
JUDGE ME?



THEY'D HAVE
TO HAVE SOME...
OBJECTIVE POINT
OF VIEW ON THE
UNIVERSE

AND WE...WE
KNOW THERE *IS*
NO SUCH POINT
OF VIEW

WE KNOW
THAT FROM
SCIENCE



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN
AN ATHEIST.

BELIEVERS ALWAYS
SEEMED TO ME TO BE...
DECLINING THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES...

I'M SURE YOU
HAVE A POINT OF
VIEW ON THIS--

SURE KIND OF
NOT REALLY
NOT IN THE WAY
THAT YOU'RE
THINKING



IN A COSMOS
LIKE OURS--

--IF YOU
ACCEPT THE "BIG
HAND THEORY" OF
THE UNIVERSE'S
ORIGIN--

--DECIDING ON
ATHEISM ISN'T A
LOGICAL CHOICE.
IT'S AN ETHICAL
ONE

SO
I WANT TO
KNOW--?



IF THERE
IS A
GOD--

--IF HE TURNS
OUT TO BE...A
LITTLE MAN IN A
BOWLER HAT OR
SOMETHING--

--DO I AT
LEAST GET TO
PUT FORTH
MY CASE?

DO
I GET TO
ARGUE?



BECAUSE
I KNOW--

I KNOW
HELL IS
REAL.

I'VE
BEEN
THERE



HOW
ABOUT IF YOU
JUST...

SAID
"SORRY"?



SORRY FOR
WHAT?

I COULD
OFFER SOME
CLARIFICATION,
SOME INSIGHTS
AS TO MY
MOTIVATION--



--BUT THAT'S
NOT THE SORT
OF GROVELING
THAT'S
REQUIRED--

--IS IT?

YOU KNOW,
LEX, I DON'T
NORMALLY DEAL IN
HYPOTHETICALS.

I MEAN,
I'M WHEN YOU FIND
OUT. BUT WE COULD
AT LEAST IMAGINE
YOUR OPTIONS. WHAT
DO YOU THINK OF...



--YOUR OWN
HEDONISTIC
PARADISE?

WOW. I'VE
ACTUALLY NOT
SEEN SOME
OF--

THAT'S
NOT THE
REAL HER.

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHAT
MAKES THIS SO
INTERESTING

I SUPPOSE
I'D SAY--



--"ID
THAT IT?"

THOSE ARE
DISTRACTIONS.
NOT WHAT I LIVE
FOR.

EVEN THE--?
WITH THE- ?

YES,
EVEN
THAT

YOU SHOULD HAVE
SEEN THE VERSION
ABOUT YOU KILLING
SUPERMAN



OKAY.

HERE'S THE
BIGGIE

WHAT IF
I SAID YOU COULD
HAVE--

--BRILLIANT,
LOVELY BLISS
FOREVER?

A CONTINUAL
BEST-EVER WARM BATH
OF AWESOMENESS, WITH
A PERPETUAL SIDE ORDER
OF FAMILIAL, ROMANTIC,
AND EVEN PET LOVE AND
ACCEPTANCE.

A SUMMER'S DAY
IN A MEADOW WITH
AN EVERLASTING CUP
OF TEA AND EVERY
BOOK.



NO WORRIES,
NO TENSION, JUST...
TRUCKLOADS
OF JOY!

NOT
JUST FOR
YOU--

--BUT FOR
EVERYONE?

Hmph
I'D SAY--

--"WHAT'S
THE CATCH?"

I THINK
I'D SPEND
FOREVER
LOOKING
FOR ONE

LISTEN--

--I'M NOT GOING
TO PARTICIPATE IN
THIS "PROCESS"
OF YOURS.

I'M
NEVER GOING
TO ACCEPT
IT--





AH!

HE'S
AWAKE.



I'M
ALIVE?!

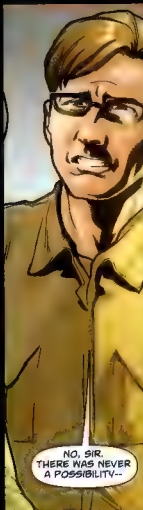
THEN--

--SHE WAS...
NO, I KNOW
SHE WAS
REAL...



"SHE"??
YOU WERE
ALONE WHEN
WE FOUND--

TELL ME
THAT I WAS
CLINICALLY DEAD.
AT LEAST FOR
A MOMENT.



NO, SIR.
THERE WAS NEVER
A POSSIBILITY--



THEN... THEN
SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY
IS HAPPENING



WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT ABOUT
ME... THAT ONE OF THE ABIDING
PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSE--

---NEEDED TO
'CHECK ON'?



...CONSTRUCTION
OF THE CITY A CITY THAT
SHALL LAST A THOUSAND
YEARS

A CITY BUILT
UPON THOSE
THINGS.

A CITY OF
WHICH EVERY
DETAIL

SHALL BE
A TRAP!

NEXT: The SAVAGE YEARS.

YOU KNOW, I LIKE
TO THINK I'M A
PRETTY FUN GUY.

SUPER-OUTGOING.

THE LIFE OF
THE PARTY.

WHAT
WAS THAT
NOISE?..

BUT TODAY,
FOR SOME
REASON--

THIS IS
WHERE YOU
WORK? LOOKS
DUMB.

THIS IS
BORING.
I WANNA GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

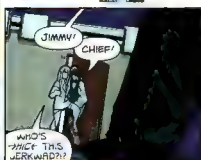
NO, NO, NO--
HEH, I'LL JUST
TAKE THOSE...

WHAT?
NO, I'M GOOD.
JIMMY. JIMMY.
LOOK AT ME.
I'M GOOD

BUT I GUESS
WE COULD STAY
HERE A LITTLE
WHILE...

OH, YEAH,
ABOUT THAT--

TODAY, I
SHOULD'VE JUST
STAYED HOME.
HOME WITH MY
COUCH AND MY
VIDEO GAMES AND
MY NOT-GETTING-
LADYHANDLED-BY-
INTERGALACTIC-
LINDSAYS...



JIMMY OLSEN'S BIG WEEK *Day Two*

NICK SPENCER: WRITER RB SILVA: PENCILLER DYM: INKER

DAVE MCCAIG
COLORIST

ROB LEIGH
LETTERER

WIL MOSS
EDITOR

MATT IDELSON
GROUP EDITOR



OKAY, SO REMEMBER THAT ALIEN INVASION I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE METROPOLIS FROM?

TURNS OUT, THE INVADING-- NOT SO MUCH.



I'D RATHER DANCE WITH YOU THAN VAPORIZE YOU.



SEE, OLSEN? NOW IF THAT'S NOT AN INVITATION, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS, YOU LUCKY BUM!

INSTEAD OF AN ARMY, THIS WAS A DIPLOMATIC ENVOY, SENT TO METROPOLIS BECAUSE--



YOU GOT GOOD-LOOKING WOMEN.

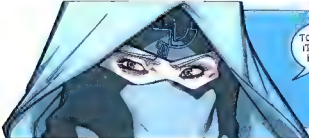
UGH! ARE YOU KIDDING?

WELL, TO BE FAIR, THEY PUT IT A LITTLE BETTER THAN THAT.

GREETINGS! I AM DURVELLA CWION, HIGH PRINCESS OF THE DALWYTH SYSTEM.

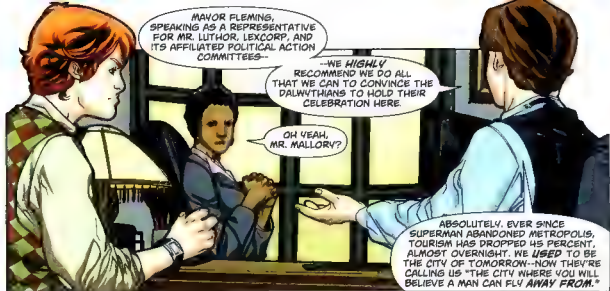
EVERY FOUR YEARS, OUR PEOPLE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE TYRANNY OF THE ALCINI METEOR LORDS WITH A GALA CELEBRATION.

OUR SELECTION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN TRAVELING ACROSS THE UNIVERSE IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT PLACE TO HOST NEXT YEAR'S EVENT--A LOCATION THAT OFFERS LIMITLESS EXCITEMENT, ENERGY, AND GLAMOUR!



SO WE CAME HERE, TO METROPOLIS, TO SEE IF IT LIVED UP TO ITS PROUD BILLING AS THE CITY OF TOMORROW.

AND WE HEARD THE D.J. AT THIS PLACE TONIGHT WAS GOOD.



MAVOR FLEMING,
SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MR. LUTHOR, LEXCORP, AND
ITS AFFILIATED POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEES--

--WE HIGHLY
RECOMMEND WE DO ALL
THAT WE CAN TO CONVINCE THE
DALWYTHIANS TO HOLD THEIR
CELEBRATION HERE.

OH YEAH,
MR. MALLORY?

ABSOLUTELY. EVER SINCE
SUPERMAN ABANDONED METROPOLIS,
TOURISM HAS DROPPED 45 PERCENT.
ALMOST OVERNIGHT, WE *USED* TO BE
THE CITY OF TOMORROW--NOW THEY'RE
CALLING US "THE CITY WHERE YOU WILL
BELIEVE A MAN CAN FLY AWAY FROM."

THIS CELEBRATION
COULD BRING MILLIONS
OF VISITORS--AND
THEIR WALLETS--INTO
THE CITY. THINK OF
THE BOON IT WILL BE
TO OUR HOTELS AND
RESTAURANTS.

AND THINK HOW
GRATEFUL ALL THOSE
REGISTERED VOTERS
WILL BE TO *YOU* FOR
SAVING THE LOCAL
ECONOMY IN THEIR
DARKEST HOUR.

Hmm

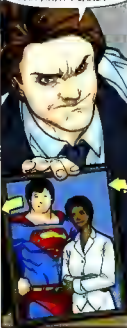


MAVOR FLEMING,
I'M NOT SURE--

OLSEN, PLEASE! THINK OF
OTHER PEOPLE FOR ONCE!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE
NOT JUST DISAPPOINTED THAT
A SOLUTION HAS PRESENTED
ITSELF THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE
PUNCHING OR SHOOTING A
RANGUN AT SOMETHING?

I MEAN REALLY, MA'AM...
IMAGINE IF METROPOLIS
HAD BEEN THIS
INHOSPITABLE THE LAST
TIME WE GOT A FRIENDLY
VISITOR FROM A
FAR-AWAY PLANET!



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
BUT I WANT *YOU TWO*
TO HANDLE THIS--
COUPLE A' YOUNG GUYS,
UPSTANDING CITIZENS,
YOU'LL DO JUST FINE
TAKE 'EM AROUND THE
CITY, SHOW 'EM A GOOD
TIME, DO WHATEVER
IT TAKES.

ME? MA'AM,
I DON'T THINK
I SHOULD--



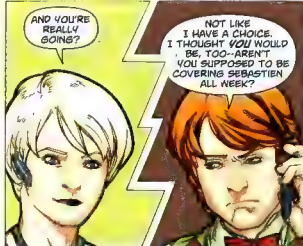
I HAVE TO
AGREE, MA'AM. OLSEN
IS HARDLY FIT FOR AN
ASSIGNMENT LIKE THIS--
HIS IDEA OF A GOOD TIME
THESE DAYS IS ICING
HIS GAMER THUMB



ENOUGH! I DON'T WANNA
HEAR ANY MORE. THE ALIEN
GIRL THINKS OLSEN'S CUTE,
SO OLSEN'S ON THE TEAM
PERIOD.

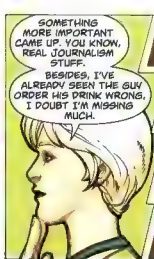
I HEREBY APPOINT
YOU CO-HEADS OF THE
DALWYTHIAN DELEGATION
WELCOMING COMMITTEE.
DON'T SCREW
THIS UP!





AND YOU'RE REALLY GOING?

NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE, TOO--AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE COVERING SEBASTIEN ALL WEEK?



SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT CAME UP. YOU KNOW, REAL JOURNALISM STUFF. BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY SEEN THE GUY ORDER HIS DRINK WRONG. I DOUBT I'M MISSING MUCH.



AND THEN HERE YOU ARE, ANSWERING MY PHONE CALLS



DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. I'VE ALREADY USED TWO QUOTES FROM THIS CONVERSATION IN MY STORY ON THE ALIEN DELEGATION.

WHEN'S THAT COME OUT?



YOU MEAN GO ONLINE? IT JUST DID



ALREADY?



ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF NOT WORKING FOR A DINOSAUR, JIMMY.

I HAD A DINOSAUR FOR A PET ONCE! YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO FEED THOSE THINGS!



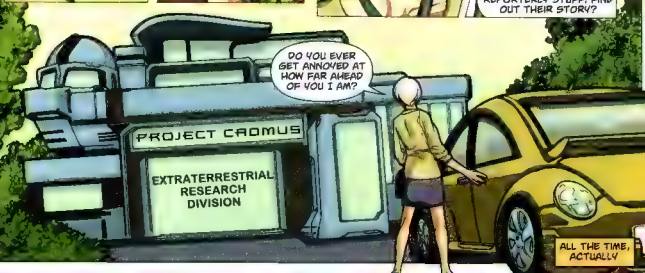
AND TO THINK I ONCE TOLD MYSELF BREAKING UP WITH YOU MEANT NEVER HAVING TO HEAR THAT STORY AGAIN.



ZING. LISTEN, I ACTUALLY DO NEED YOUR HELP.

SOMETHING ABOUT THESE DALNYTHIANS ISN'T ADDING UP FOR ME

YOU THINK MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOME REPORTERLY STUFF, FIND OUT THEIR STORY?



DO YOU EVER GET ANNOYED AT HOW FAR AHEAD OF YOU I AM?

ALL THE TIME, ACTUALLY



POOSH!!!





I'll uh...
I'll get us
something from
the bar.



WHAT IS
THIS?

MAN, YOU
DON'T KNOW
FOOTBALL? THIS IS
THE METROPOLIS
METEORS VERSUS
THE GOTHAM
GOLIATHS

MY OWN PEOPLE
HAVE FOUGHT
METEOR LORDS
AS WELL...

YEAH, WELL,
THE GOLIATHS GOT NO O-LINE,
AND OUR METEORS HAVE THE
BEST DEFENSE IN THE LEAGUE.
SO THEY CAN SUCK IT.

AND YET
STILL THEY
FIGHT...



SO HOW'S IT
GOING OVER
THERE?

YOU KNOW WHAT,
CHLOE, MAYBE I WAS
BEING A LITTLE PARANOID.
I DON'T THINK WE REALLY
NEED TO WORRY ABOUT
THEM, THEY SEEM
HARMLESS ENOUGH

SO YOU'RE
SAVING VEIL-GIRL
TURNED OUT TO
BE HOT.



WELL, YOU MIGHT
APPRECIATE THIS FUN
FACTOID. THEN, I THINK
I FIGURED OUT WHY THEY
WANT METROPOLIS FOR
THEIR LITTLE PARTY

SEE, THE DALWYTH
SYSTEM'S MAINWORLD
HAS A PRETTY UNIQUE
AND--FOR US--HIGHLY
TOXIC ATMOSPHERE

BUT THANKS
TO THEIR STRONGER
RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS,
THEY CAN HANDLE OUR
ATMOSPHERE IN SMALL
DOSES, THOUGH IT DOES
SLIGHTLY IMPAIR THEIR
BRAIN FUNCTION.
COORDINATION, MOBILITY,
YAPPA YAPPA...

WAIT,
YOU'RE
SAVING...



YEP,
OXYGEN GETS
THEM DRUNK.

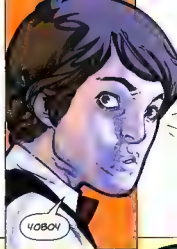
HAVE
FUN WITH
THAT,
CHAMP.



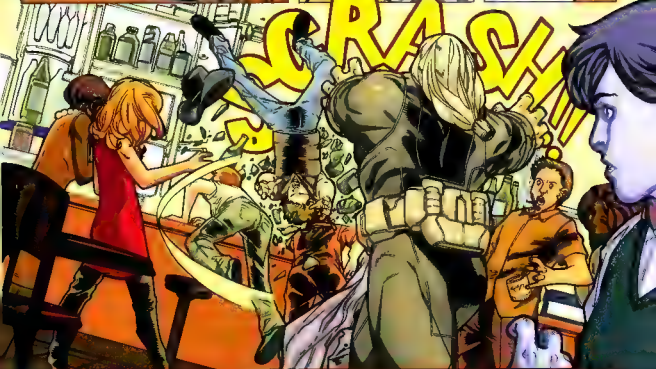
OOH,
THE METEORS
DELIVER A CRUSHING
SACK THERE, TAKING
DOWN GOLIATH'S
QUARTERBACK ZACK
HOWARD...



Nooooo!!!



40804



DIE,
METEOR
LORDS,
DIE!!!



HEY! I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE,
YOU KNOW, I SAW
YOU ON TMZ!

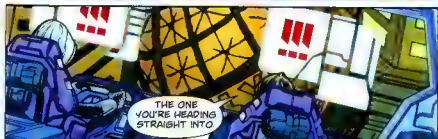
THEY GET
TMZ IN
SPACE?



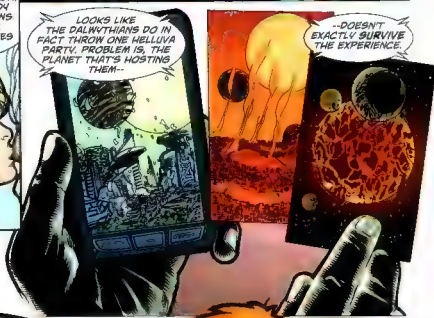
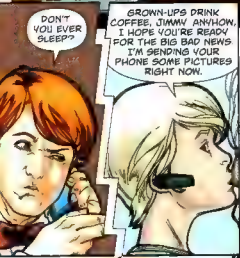
YOU HANG OUT
WITH SUPERMAN.
THAT'S PRETTY
SEXY.

Er, MAYBE
WE SHOULD STAY
HERE AND DEAL
WITH THE WHOLE
FIGHTING
THING.

MY BROTHER'S
A 500-POUND
SUPER POWERED
ALIEN. WHAT ARE
YOU GONNA
DO?



ONE DEAFENING CRASH
SOUND EFFECT LATER



NEXT MONTH:
JIMMY OLSEN,
BUZZKILL!



This



is happening



right now!

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We signing you,

— Tom Sawyer, Senior Story Editor DCU

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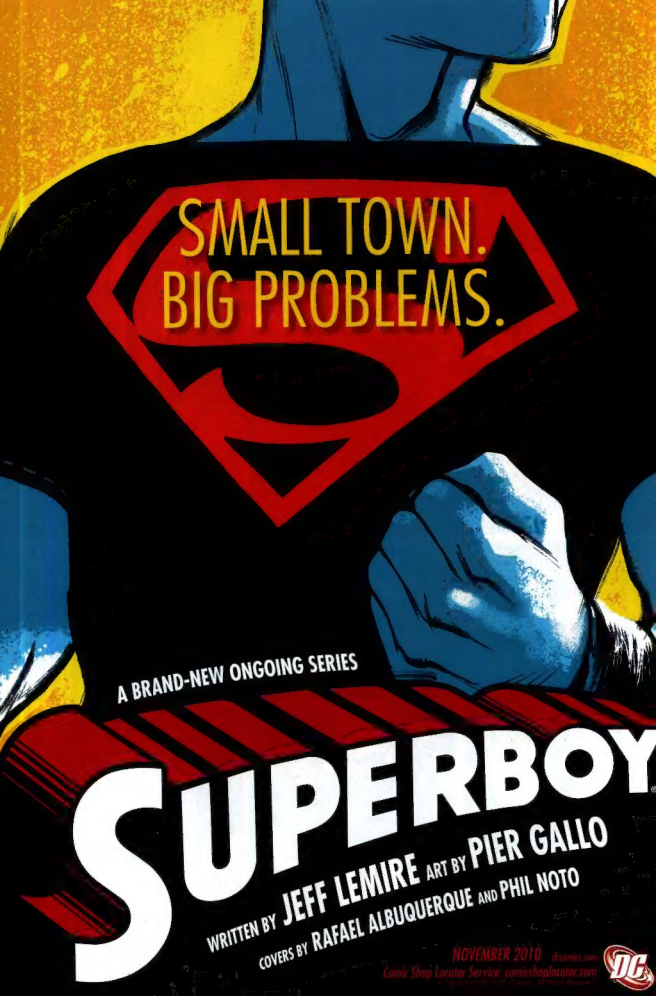
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